GENERAL COUNCIL
of the
WOMAN'S BOARD OF MISSIONS
of the
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH in the U. S. A.

Sept. 13-1917

TO:

MEMBERS OF GENERAL COUNCIL:

As ad interim matters are to be determined by correspondence, I am now submitting to you three questions. As the Council has no secretary for Publications, it has seemed necessary for me, as Chairman, to take on some of the duties of that officer. It was not my wish to take on this responsibility but I felt that I had no power to delegate it to another, and it is necessary that the work shall not be delayed. I trust that this meets with your approval. I, therefore, present for your consideration the following:

1. The manuscripts of the various Westminster Guild booklets are coming to me for approval and there has arisen the question of the imprint that should be placed on them. Here we found what seemed a serious difficulty. The Bible Study Course is a joint publication and would, therefore, bear the imprint, "Woman's Board of Missions of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A." This meant that there was no address anywhere in the pamphlet so that those desiring other copies would not know, per se, where to secure the same. I, therefore, asked the Board of the North West, which is printing the Bible Study Course this year, to place in the back thereof the names and addresses of the seven Woman's Boards. This seemed to meet that question. When, however, we come to the programs for text-books, we found facing us quite a different matter. If we placed a joint imprint on the face of the programs and followed the above procedure as to the seven Boards in the back of the pamphlet, we were, for example, giving seven addresses for the programs for the Home text-books, whereas only one Board, the Woman's Board of Home Missions, handles the same. In the case of the Foreign programs, six Boards would handle it, but the address of the Woman's Board of Home Missions would also be

there. In studying this problem, I faced the fact that while the Study Book programs are for joint organizations, they are not joint publications and the Foreign one is not submitted to the Home Board nor the Home one to the Foreign Boards. I, therefore, have instructed that these should be printed this year as usual, having on the face of each the imprint of the Board ordering it, leaving to further action of General Council the question of the joint imprint and the method by which addresses shall be secured. I am not sure that the printing can await your action but I shall be glad to hear from you promptly on this matter. I trust that you do not feel that I have gone beyond my authority in this matter. I have thought that safety lay in leaving the imprints as they have been in the past.

2. The second question is concerning the annual report of the Westminster Guilds, a copy of which is enclosed. If you will compare this with the report of last year, you will note that whereas in the report of 1916, the Home Mission funds were divided according to the territory of the six Woman's Boards, in the report of 1917, they are only given as a total. It has made considerable work in the Woman's Board of Home Missions to keep these funds separately as, of course, that Board does not recognize the territorial divisions of the Foreign Boards. The Chairman of the Westminster Guild Council has made the addition of items sent to her. The former Chairman, Miss Allis, feels that a great mistake has been made in omitting this division in the present report and desires that such sub-divisions should still be prepared and a printed slip be pasted in the blank space on the second and third pages. So far as I have been able to learn, the general feeling is that these figures are not of sufficient value to warrant the work. I should be very glad to hear from you as to whether you, in your Board, feel that this is important.

3. On a separate sheet enclosed, you will find a standard prepared by the United Society of Christian Endeavor for Young People. Our Presbyterian Board of Publications and Sabbath School Work has asked whether we, as the Boards in charge of the young people's work in our own denomination, will accept No. 1 in this Standard; that is: whether we will make plans to prepare for the young people such a program as will make it possible for our young people to render "a specific denominational service", and thus secure the 2½ credit. Mr. Hall writes:"I believe that if all of us who are interested in our young people will unite in producing a denominational program for the societies to accept, if we kept it before them constantly, it will be the natural thing for a great many of the societies to accept the program as their first challenge, as it is the head of the column." I understand "program" here to be an inclusive word and to mean more than the preparation of programs on monthly topics.

Please place votes and comments on enclosed slip. I do not understand that you present these questions to your Boards but that you vote as a member of General Council would on detail matters.

Very sincerely yours,

MKB:all.

General Council
OF THE
Woman's Boards of Missions
OF THE
Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN LETTER OF CHAIRMAN OF GENERAL COUNCIL, dated September 13, 1917.

I VOTE:
REMARKS: Question of Joint Surprint would seemingly be settled next year as all such courses will be recommended to General Council by Secretary for Religious Work - This year rests under old plan

II VOTE:
REMARKS: Do not feel separate Report as needed is necessary - but feel this years report lacks much in Clearness -

III VOTE:
REMARKS: Do not understand question so do not feel qualified to vote -

Date October 8-1917.

Signed Eva C. Ward
Woman Board of Home Missions

General Council
OF THE
Woman's Boards of Missions
OF THE
Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN LETTER OF CHAIRMAN OF GENERAL COUNCIL, dated September 13, 1917.

I VOTE: That minutes remain as usual
REMARKS:
(Com. of N. B.) at its meeting of Sept. 25th the Treasurers Board voted that the procedure outlined in your letter was thereby approved.

II VOTE: That the N. J. Funds & N. B. be not divided Territorially.
REMARKS:
At the same meeting the Treasurers Board (Com. of Home Board voted that Home Missions Funds Given by Foreign Board Territories be discontinued.

III VOTE: Yes.
REMARKS:

Date

Signed Mrs H. C. Lindenborg
Mrs. H. C. Lindenborg

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN LETTER OF CHAIRMAN OF GENERAL COUNCIL, dated September 13, 1917.

I

VOTE:
REMARKS: Yes — Think you have done nicely.

II

VOTE:
REMARKS: We do not like the present report, and are very anxious that the method adopted by Miss Allis be Continued.

III

VOTE:
REMARKS: Yes — We will include this in the forthcoming C. E. Program.

Date

Sept 22 - 1917

Portland -

Oregon.

Signed

Flora A. Good.

(Mrs. John W.)

General Council
OF THE
Woman's Boards of Missions
OF THE
Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN LETTER OF CHAIRMAN OF GENERAL COUNCIL, dated September 13, 1917.

I VOTE:
REMARKS: I approve of your decision re printing of study class books.

II VOTE:
REMARKS: Our Philadelphia Board instructed me to say that we agree with Miss Allis in omitting the Mechinguelin Guild gifts, but would like to refer the matter to the new Executive Committee of Central Committee.

III VOTE:
REMARKS: We approve of item 1. in the C. E. standards. The question was asked in an Executive Committee if C. E. societies could now have two standards presented to them. But I think that does not necessarily follow. We only prepare the denominational program, even if the C. E. standard were not adopted.

Date Sept. 25. 1917. Signed Mrs. John Harvey Lee -

General Council
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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN LETTER OF CHAIRMAN OF GENERAL COUNCIL, dated September 13, 1917.

I VOTE: Approve present action.
REMARKS: Recommend that names of the seven Womans Boards be placed on all Westminster Guild literature with suggestion that purchases be made from nearest territorial Board (Foreign) and from home Board.

II VOTE: Approve present action.
REMARKS: Division of funds territorially desirable but not necessary. Desirable because enabling Secretary to know quickly which territory needs special attention. Not necessary because Secretary can always obtain such information from individual Boards on application.

III VOTE: Yes.
REMARKS: The Secretary for Young People's Societies of the New York Board has regretted the lack of denominational (Presbyterian) interest in the societies in her care and would welcome any effort to strengthen such interest.

Date
September 19th. 1917.

Signed
(Mrs. H. E.) Alma O. Hakes.
Womens Board of Foreign Missions, New York.

General Council
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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN LETTER OF CHAIRMAN OF GENERAL COUNCIL, dated September 13, 1917.

I VOTE: Approve the chairmans ruling -
REMARKS:

II VOTE: Approve report -
REMARKS: I supposed gifts were equally divided between Home & Foreign objects by each chapter and circle. Am not sufficiently knowledge to express an opinion as to the value of keeping the record of the Home gifts - sentimentally.

III VOTE:
REMARKS: Approve a distinctly denominational program for our Presbyterian C. E. Societies but am not sure that I quite grasp all the points involved in this question -

Date

Signed
Hallie S. Pratt
(Mrs James A. Pratt)

(over)

General Council
OF THE
Woman's Boards of Missions
OF THE
Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN LETTER OF CHAIRMAN OF GENERAL COUNCIL, dated September 13, 1917.

I VOTE:
REMARKS: Approve of Chairman's decisions.

II VOTE:
REMARKS: I do not feel that the extreme of printing items by territories would be warranted. I really feel it is wise, anyway, to have totals of W.B. of M. only, as a regular policy in future - in geographical division of funds given out.

III VOTE: Yes. I would approve of preparing a "program" for Y.P.S.C.E. societies - provided this program or standard did not include the continuing to use present "Standard of Excellence for all Y.P. Organizations"
REMARKS: I do not interpret, however, I in exactly same way as type letter does - "B" - In two parts you in opposing it me -

Date Sept. 18/17 Signed Horace E. Dunlap

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN LETTER OF CHAIRMAN OF GENERAL COUNCIL, dated September 13, 1917.

I VOTE: Approved
REMARKS:

II VOTE: Not important
REMARKS:

The Board of the Southwest does not consider the figures indicating the amount given to Home Missions, through the Westminster Guild Chapters and Circles in its territory, important. We should like however to see the grand total of gifts to Foreign Missions added to the next report.

III VOTE: Accept this challenge.
REMARKS:

Co-operating with Mr. Hall, the Womans Boards of Home and Foreign Missions should prepare a suitable and usable program to meet this challenge of the Christian Endeavor Union.

Date

Signed

General Council
OF THE
Woman's Boards of Missions
OF THE
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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN LETTER OF CHAIRMAN OF GENERAL COUNCIL, dated September 13, 1917.

I VOTE: Yes
REMARKS:

II VOTE: No -
REMARKS:
I see no reason for dividing the gifts rec'd from Home. Mis Tinitorially and would suggest that the reports be left as they are -

III VOTE: Yes
REMARKS:
If such a program will in any way increase their interest - in the work of their Society or be of value to them as members of the Presbyterian Church

Date Sept - 20 Signed Annie Wyatt

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN LETTER OF CHAIRMAN OF GENERAL COUNCIL, dated September 13, 1917.

I

VOTE: Occidental Board approves the action
REMARKS: taken by Chr. of General Council,

II

VOTE: No.
REMARKS: While it is interesting we do not feel that it is of sufficient importance to warrant the extra work involved,

III

VOTE: We heartily favor the denominational
REMARKS: Program,

Date

Signed Laura A. Pinney,
(Mrs. A. B.) General Council member
for Occidental Board,

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN LETTER OF CHAIRMAN OF GENERAL COUNCIL.

dated September 13, 1917

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1 VOTE: Agree with your judgment to have imprint the same as heretofore.

REMARKS: Northwest Board objects to the manner of listing the Boards on the back page of "The Westminster Guild- Hints for 1917-1918". The name of the Secretary for Westminster Guild of the Woman's Home Board should be printed in just the same way as the secretaries of the Foreign Boards.

11 VOTE: Consider the annual report as prepared by Miss Ogg satisfactory except that the totals for the
REMARKS: Foreign Boards should be added.

111 VOTE: Northwest Board would favor acceptance of No 1 in the Christian Endeavor Standard, also of
REMARKS: having a denominational program (the inclusive term as suggested by Mrs. Hall) prepared by those responsible for Young People's work. We would be willing to help in such a plan.

Date: September 22nd, 1917.

Signed (Mrs. L. L.) Alice Wood Coy

1

ad interim vote

General Council
OF THE
Woman's Boards of Missions
OF THE
Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.

October 22, 1917.

TO THE MEMBERS OF GENERAL COUNCIL:

Dear Friends,

The answers to my general letter dated September 13, 1917 have been received and the result was as follows:

Question 1: Eleven votes were cast. All approved the plan for this year as outlined in the letter of September 13, 1917.

Question 2: Nine votes were cast in favor of leaving the Westminster Guild report as it has been printed. Those approving were: Mrs. Coy, Mrs. Pinney, Mrs. Bissland, Mrs. Waters, Miss Hyatt, Miss Quinlan, Mrs. Webb, Mrs. Louderbough, and Mrs. Waid. Some of these added that they felt that the Foreign amounts should have been totaled. Mrs. Lee would like to have the report printed as heretofore and Mrs. Goss reports that the Northern Pacific Board does not like the present report. As, however, there was a two-thirds vote representing both interests, no further action will be taken concerning the Westminster Guild report this year but the matter will go on the docket for consideration in January.

Question 3: General approval was given of trying to meet the plan put out by the Board of Publication and Sabbath School Work relative to a program that should make it possible for the members of Christian Endeavor Societies to win 20% credit in the proposed standard. In pursuance of your approval, the Chairman is taking up further correspondence with that Board and will, if it seems desirable, appoint a committee to take this matter in charge.

While writing, the Chair would report as follows on matters that are unfinished:

1. The Year Book of Prayer is in the hands of the printer and will probably be out in a few days.

2. The leaflet on "Suggestions and Reminders for Missionary Education" is ready ~~sent~~ for the printer and will be issued shortly.

3. The leaflet concerning the Extension Department is being prepared and will be presented for approval at an early date.

4. The Hand Book has not yet been reported as approved by the Boards.

5. The vacancies which existed have not been filled---the Nominating Committee has the matter under consideration.

Very sincerely yours,

M. Katharine Bennett

MKB/LEH.

(Mrs. F. S.)